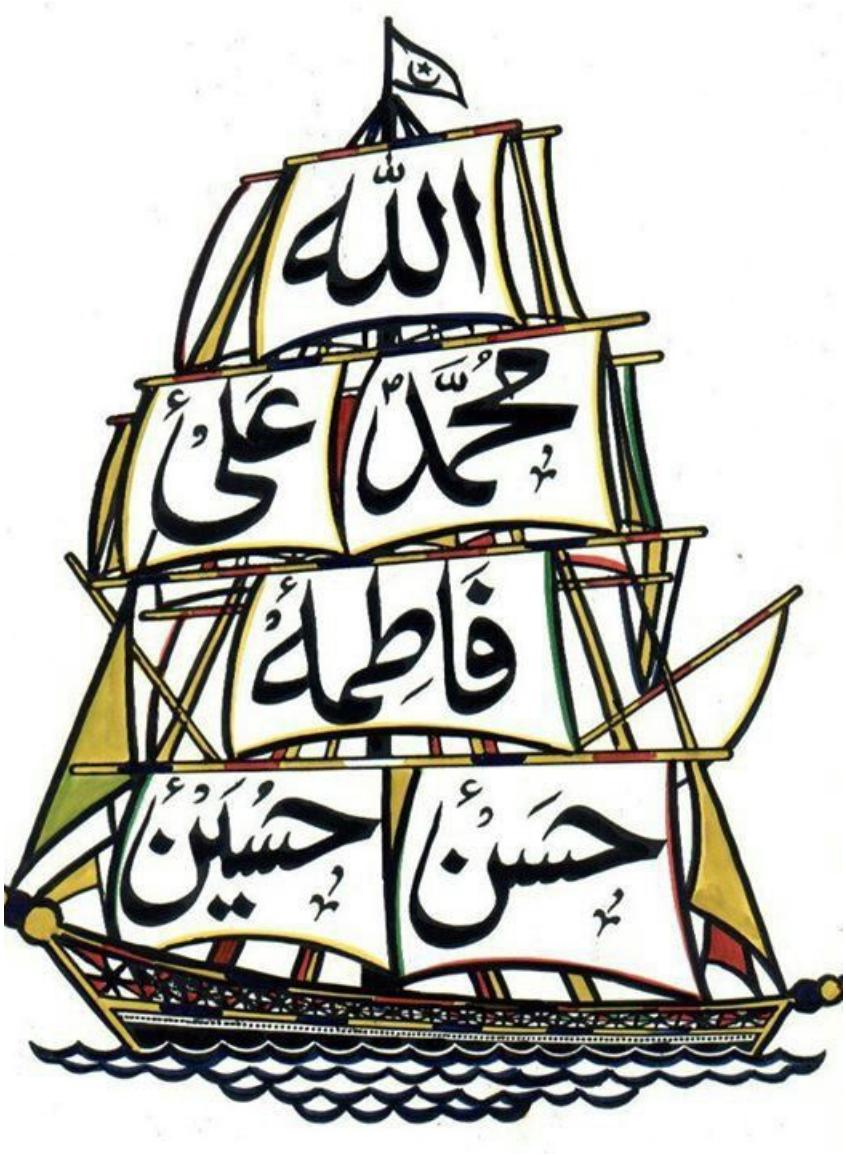
THE PATH OF AHLUL'BAYT (AS)



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Topic - Sins – Small & Big

SINS – SMALL & BIG

Two men came to Imam Jafar As-Sadiq (as) and said that they would like to do Tawbah (ask for forgiveness and put right) for their sins. The first man said

that he had done a lot of small sins/minor sins (Gunah-e-Saghira) whilst the second said that he had committed two big sins/major sins/greater sins (Gunah-e-Kabira).

Imam Jafar As-Sadiq (as) told the first man to pick one small pebble for each small sin (Gunah-e-Saghira) that he had committed. Imam Jafar As-Sadiq (as) told the second man to bring a large boulder for each of his big sins (Gunah-e-Kabira). After a while both men came back to Imam Jafar As-Sadiq (as) having brought what they were asked to bring. Imam Jafar As-Sadiq (as) now asked both of them to put back every stone in its place. The man with the two large boulders found it difficult to carry them back in their original place but eventually he managed. The man with the many small pebbles could not remember where he had picked all of them so he could not put them all back in their original place.

Hence, it is very difficult to do Tawbah (Repentance/Istighfaar) for the sins which seem small because we forget and take them for granted. That's why Imam Ali (as) has said: **"The biggest sin is that which the doer considers the smallest."** or **"The worst sin is that which the sinner takes lightly."**

Narrations state that once Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) during a journey camped at a desert place absolutely bereft of any vegetation. He (saw) told the companions (Sahabah) to collect sticks. All of them said that they were in such a desolate place that it was not possible to find any sticks. Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) ordered each of them to collect as many twigs as he can or fetch whatever they might find. Hence, companions (Sahabah) scattered in every direction. In the due course each companion brought a small quantity of sticks and put them before Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw). When all of them had made a pile of sticks, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "Sins also accumulate in this way."

The Holy Prophet Muhammad (saw) wanted to show by this analogy that even though we may be unaware of our sins when they accumulate they could make a big heap. If we calculate the sins we commit in our life they shall reach a staggering figure.

Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (as): Do not consider a Small thing insignificant

An increase of drop on a drop makes a stream
An increase of a stream upon a stream makes an ocean

However, Imam Muhammad al-Baqir (as) does not limit his words to the acts of worship and sin, rather the Imam continues to discuss our interaction with people. How can one undervalue a brother/sister, while the great servants of Allah (SWT) are hidden amongst the rest of the people? It is noteworthy that this saying does not specify a certain group of people such as the faithful; rather it encompasses all the creatures of Allah (SWT). Islam has not allowed us to judge people by their appearances, unless his/her true character has been revealed; and has not allowed us to ignore others merely because he/she does not have a pleasant appearance to us.

REMEMBER IMAM ALI IBN ABU TALIB (AS) ALSO SAID:

"IF YOU SEE SOMEONE COMMITTING A SIN, TOMORROW DO NOT LOOK AT HIM AS A SINNER, HE MAY HAVE REPENTED DURING THE NIGHT AND YOU DID NOT KNOW"

-WASALAAM

ESOOFI ABD'IL QADER